GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDY
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite commitments to reduce subsidy the European Union Countriesare continuing their agriculture subsidiaries in some form or the other;

(b) if so, whether Indian agricultural sector has been deprived of such subsidiaries;

(c) if so, whether the agriculture sector is being affected in every state as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures being taken by the Government to stop mass unemployment and mass migration from rural to urban areas by the Indian Agriculturists?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): There is no report of violation of commitment for reduction of subsidies by European Union countries under Agreement on Agriculture.

(b): As per the Agreement on Agriculture, all those countries who were not giving export subsidies prior to the Agreement on Agriculture, are not permitted to give new export subsidies. Developing countries are, however, permitted to provide certain subsidies in their export programmes to meet the cost of transport, packaging etc.

(c): Continuation of export subsidies by developed countries adversely affects the competitiveness of agricultural export of developing countries.

(d): In order to increase employment opportunities in the rural areas the Governmentis implementing various employment generating programmes including the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). Besides for increasing overall development ofagriculture, the Government, inter alia, have switched over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management Mode for providing assistance to States.